

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8236

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3029

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESCAP:AORG

SUBJECT: ESCAP:AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR DIVISION CHIEFS

REF: (A) BANGKOK 2578, (B) STATE 18355,
(C) ROCKE/HERMESMAN LETTER 30 JAN 76

1. SUMMARY: ESCAP ADMIN CHIEF, ROY SMITH, RECOMMENDS PUSHING ANOTHER AMERICAN FOR POPULATION DIVISION CHIEF POSITION BECAUSE HE BELIEVES CHANCES ARE STILL GOOD AND ALSO BECAUSE AMERICANS DO NOT HAVE MUCH CHANCE ELSEWHERE. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER ITS POSITION (REF B) ON PROMOTING AMERICAN FOR POPULATION DIVISION CHIEF AND SUPPORT CANDIDATE DESCRIBED REF C OR ANOTHER QUALIFIED ONE. END SUMMARY.

2. C. ROY SMITH, BRITISHER WITH AMERICAN WIFE, HAS BEEN ESCAP ADMINISTRATION DIVISION CHIEF FOR PAST TWO YEARS. HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE, CORDIAL AND HELPFUL TO US AND ALWAYS DISCREET. DURING DISCUSSION BILLINGSLEY IMBROGLIO DESCRIBED REF A, SMITH DECLARED BILLINGSLEY DOES NOT HAVE GHOST OF CHANCE OF BECOMING CHIEF ESPECIALLY AFTER FAO REP UMALI RECOMMENDED HE BE ACTING AGRICULTURE CHIEF AND ERRONEOUSLY CLAIMED EXSEC MARAMIS HAD SUPPORTED RECOMMENDATION. IN FACT, ROY SMITH BELIEVES NO AMERICAN HAS CHANCE FOR ANY DIVISION CHIEF POSITIONS OPENING UP
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EXCEPT FOR POPULATION DIVISION. HE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

AN AMERICAN CANDIDATE BE PROPOSED. WE INDICATED THAT POSSIBLE NEW CANDIDATE, PROFESSOR LUKE LEE FROM FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW/DIPLOMACY, HAD EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN POPULATION DIVISION CHIEF POSITION, AND WE HAD ASKED DEPARTMENT (REF C) TO STUDY HIS QUALIFICATIONS. SMITH REQUESTED COPY LEE'S CURRICULUM VITAE AND PROMISED TO PROMOTE HIM TO MARAMIS, IF DEPARTMENT GIVES GREEN LIGHT.

3. SMITH REVEALED PERSONAL DISSATISFACTION WITH HOW POORLY MARAMIS PERFORMED AT RECENT MEETING OF UN COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES IN BANGKOK AND FACT MARAMIS IS STARTING TO STUFF ESCAP WITH HIS "INDONESIAN CRONIES" JUST THE WAY BURMESE AND INDIANS DID. SMITH WONDERED ALOUD WHY UN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS COULD NOT HAVE EXSECS FROM ANOTHER REGION WITH DEPUTIES FROM REGION. AS IT IS, HE SAID THERE IS NO WAY TO RAISE LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IN ESCAP.

4. COMMENT: MARAMIS' FIRST TERM AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENDS AUGUST 1976, AND HE APPARENTLY INTENDS TO INSURE HIS OWN REAPPOINTMENT FOR SECOND TERM BY SATISFYING REGIONAL COUNTRIES' DEMANDS FOR PLACEMENT OF THEIR OFFICIALS IN ESCAP SECRETARIAT. CARDS ARE CLEARLY STACKED AGAINST AMERICAN APPOINTMENTS AT LEVELS HIGHER THAN P-5. IN ADDITION TO AGRICULTURE CHIEF, STATISTIC CHIEF LEAVES EARLY APRIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF PLENARY.

5. RECOMMENDATION: ODDS ARE SLIM, NO MATTER WHAT DIVISION CHIEF SLOT WE SHOOT FOR, BUT SUPPORT OF KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL ADMIN CHIEF COULD MAKE DIFFERENCE. WE URGE DEPARTMENT, THEREFORE, RECONSIDER POSITION TAKEN REF B AND DECIDE WHETHER SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF PROFESSOR LIKE LEE OR ANOTHER QUALIFIED AMERICAN. ON REFLECTION, WE BELIEVE LEE CANDIDACY PROBABLY HAS GREATER CHANCE SUCCESS THAN BILLINGSLEY CANDIDACY. WHITEHOUSE

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